

REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 27-40, 42-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Patterson et al. (hereinafter Patterson). This rejection is traversed.

Nowhere in Patterson is there any language which would tend to suggest that Patterson "discloses an apparatus for control of an alternating current appliance and the apparatus being entirely resident within an appliance plug and the device has a programmable control which being programmable exclusively through a plurality of the power delivery conductors" as claimed by Applicants. This is because Patterson is not directed to a generic adapter which can be mass-produced and later programmed for a specific task using nothing more than the power delivery conductors. Rather, Patterson is directed to a "rodent control device which generates a pulsating electromagnetic field within a building." (Patterson at Col. 1, lines 5-7). Patterson is not an appliance controller and fails to disclose any means for attaching any type of appliance to Patterson's invention. Furthermore, Patterson fails to disclose a method for controlling an attached appliance. Instead, Patterson discloses a rodent control device circuit that is microprocessor controlled which allows automatic sensing of line voltage cycles rates and precise control of internal coil switching circuitry. (Patterson Abstract).

In addition, the microprocessor in Patterson operates from a fixed program (Patterson Figures 3, 4A, 4B and 4C) and does not disclose the microprocessor as a programmable controller as claimed by Applicants. In fact, Patterson does not even have a programmable element, it simply discloses a programmed microprocessor that can be programmed to send control signals to LEDs or can be programmed to periodically stop production (Patterson Col. 7, lines 24-42). Nowhere does Patterson disclose a controller that is programmable exclusively through a plurality of the power delivery conductors.

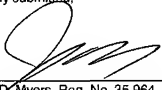
Applicants claim an apparatus that implements appliance control at the point where the appliance receives electrical power. Unlike the present invention, Patterson discloses a rodent control device using a standard male power plug (Patterson Col. 2, line 65).

Finally, Patterson fails to disclose electrostatic discharge protection diodes internal to said microcontroller and excluding rectification elements of a DC power supply external to said microcontroller, wherein said internal electrostatic discharge protection diodes provide a source of direct current for said microcontroller, as claimed by Applicants' claim 52. Rather, Patterson discloses external diodes that are not internal to the microcontroller (Patterson Figure 2).

Applicant has responded to each and every ground of rejection advanced by the Examiner without introduction of new matter or raising new issues. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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